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Fishing vessels *Valmark* and *Silver Harvest*

Joint project: Alf Wallace Nets Ltd/Marine Laboratory

REPORT

N16

13-17 June 1991

Personnel

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Objective

To obtain underwater video film and measurements of both vessels' gear using the Laboratory Remote Controlled Television Vehicle.

Narrative

After having successfully completed deep water RCTV tests on the evening of 14 June, single boat trials commenced the following day off Cellar Head. Two combined RCTV/Instrumentation hauls were made, one with a *Valmark* 600 clean net, the other with *Valmark's* scraper trawl. Due to problems with Trackpoint II, no work with a second vessel was attempted. *Valmark* steamed back to Lochinver overnight to change gear. Two more combined hauls were made on the same grounds on 16 June before deteriorating weather conditions precluded further use of the remote controlled vehicle. A final deep water haul using only Scanmar instrumentation was carried out on the "Square" grounds off Tiumpan Head before *Valmark* set off for Lochinver. Staff and equipment returned to Aberdeen on 17 June.

Results

Good underwater visibility allowed over three hours of high quality video recordings to be achieved. Headline height, door and wingend spread and net water speed measurements for the three gears filmed were also obtained. Trackpoint II, however, proved rather disappointing for fishing gear measurements on this occasion; it is recommended that further trials be carried out to establish the practical performance limitations of this equipment.

R D Galbraith

9 July 1991